

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 12, as set forth below in the Listing of Claims.

The current listing of claims replaces all prior listings.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting a cell proliferative disorder, comprising:

- a) contacting a sample comprising ribonucleic acid molecules, with oligonucleotide primers that permit extension of a sequence complementary to a polynucleotide sequence encoding exon 1 of the human p16 gene and a sequence complementary to a polynucleotide sequence encoding exon 2 of the human p16 gene, under conditions suitable for primer extension of the complementary sequences;
- b) amplifying the resulting extension products of step (a) comprising contacting the extension products with a sense oligonucleotide which binds within and extends sequences from a human 5' ALT gene; and
- c) determining the presence of an amplification product comprising a 5' ALT alternative p16 transcript devoid of exon 1 of the human p16 gene, that encodes a truncated p16 gene product with a homozygous deletion of exon 1, comprising detecting a first amplification product containing exon 2 of the p16 gene in the absence of identifying a second amplification product containing exon 1 of the p16 gene, wherein the presence of the ~~truncated p16 gene product~~ 5' ALT alternative p16 transcript is associated with a cell proliferative disorder, and wherein the cell proliferative disorder is lung or head and neck cancer.

Claims 13-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the sample comprises a biological fluid, cells, or a tissue.

Claims 16.-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the amplification reaction comprises reverse transcription and polymerase chain reaction.

20. (Withdrawn) A kit, comprising oligonucleotide primers that permit amplification of a polynucleotide comprising exon 1 of a p16 gene and exon 2 of the p16 gene.

21. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 20, comprising a first forward primer that permits amplification of exon 1 of the p16 gene, a second forward primer that permits amplification of exon 2 of the p16 gene, and at least one reverse primer.

22. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 21, comprising one reverse primer, which permits amplification of exon 1 of the 16 gene and exon 2 of the p16 gene.

23. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 21, comprising a first reverse primer that permits amplification of exon 1 of the p16 gene and a second reverse primer that permits amplification of exon 2 of the p16 gene.

24. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 20, wherein the oligonucleotide primers that permit amplification of a polynucleotide comprising exon 2 of the p16 gene further permit amplification of a polynucleotide comprising 5'ALT.